

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 NEA-10 IO-11 ISO-00 SAJ-01 ACDA-05 AF-06

EB-07 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 COME-00 SAM-01 TRSE-00 OMB-01

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INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

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AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PARM, NATO CSCE, UR, UK, XO, US

SUBJECT: SOVIET PRESS SUMMARY - FEB 14-17

Q1. SUMMARY: SOVIET PRESS HIGHLIGHTS OVER THIS LONG
WEEKEND--

-- COVERAGE OF THE U.S. IS HEAVILY CRITICAL, WITH
ATTACKS ON THE NEW DEFENSE BUDGET FOR EMPHASIS ON NEW
STRATEGIC SYSTEMS. THE PRESS REPORTS U.S. CRUISE
MISSILE TEST FLIGHT, AND CONTINUES LAMBASTING THE CIA
AND U.S. CORPORATION ACTIVITIES ABROAD; THE MUNICH
RADIOS ALSO COME IN FOR CRITICISM;

-- PRAVDA PRAISES THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF THE PEACE
PROGRAM AND REPLAYS EASTERN EUROPEAN SPOKESMEN TO SHOW
THAT BASIC AIMS OF THE PROGRAM HAVE BEEN ACHIEVED;

-- ANGOLA COVERAGE CONTINUES STEADY AND TRIUMPHANT
IN ALL PAPERS;

-- THE PRESS SINGS THE PRAISE OF "SOVIET DEMOCRACY"
IN OBVIOUS EFFORT TO WARD OFF WESTERN CRITICISM;

-- THE UK GETS SOME FAVORABLE COVERAGE FOR A
CHANGE;

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-- PRAVDA FRONTPAGES STATEMENTS BY FAHMY CALLING
THE GROMYKO LETTER TO WALDHEIM "A POSITIVE STEP";

-- PRAVDA USES AN ERICH HONECKER SPEECH TO REPLY TO
PCF (AND OTHER) "ANTI-SOVIETISM", AND ALSO PRINTS
ENOUGH OF A RECENT HUSAK SPEECH TO SHOW THAT ALL IS NOT
WELL IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA;

-- PRAVDA PRAISES LAOTIAN/VIETNAMESE RELATIONS;
AND

-- CAUTIONS AGAINST TURNING ASEAN INTO A MILITARY
ALLIANCE, AND ALONG WITH OTHER PAPERS CRITICIZES U.S.
MILITARY PRESENCE IN THE INDIAN OCEAN. END SUMMARY.

2. U.S. THE PRESS REMAINS HEAVILY CRITICAL ON THE
U.S., WITH EMPHASIS CURRENTLY ON U.S. DEFENSE SPENDING
AND CIA AND U.S. CORPORATION ACTIVITIES ABROAD. SIGNED
COMMENTARY (STURUA) IN IZVESTIYA FEB 13 EMPHASIZES
RECORD DEFENSE BUDGET LEVEL IN THE U.S., AND SAYS MAIN
FEATURE OF BUDGET IS STRESS ON DEVELOPMENT AND CONSTRUCTION OF
NEW STRATEGIC WEAPONS. SIGNED COMMENTARY IN
KRASNAYA ZVEZDA FEB 17 MAKES SAME POINT AND ACCUSES
PENTAGON OF DELIBERATELY IGNORING THE "GREAT POSITIVE
CHANGES" WHICH HAVE RECENTLY TAKEN PLACE IN U.S. -
SOVIET RELATIONS. ALL CENTRAL PRESS FEB 16 REPORTS
WITHOUT COMMENT, THOUGH PROMINENTLY, TEST FLIGHT OF
U.S. CRUISE MISSILE ANNOUNCED PREVIOUS DAY BY U.S.
AIR FORCE. PRAVDA FEB 15 REPORTS "LATEST IN SERIES"
OF U.S. NUCLEAR TESTS IN NEVADA. PRESS ON FEB 14
REPORTS REGULAR SALT SESSION IN GENEVA. PRAVDA FEB 17
REPORTS THE SECRETARY'S DEPARTURE ON LATIN AMERICAN
TRIP, AND KRASNAYA ZVEZDA ON FEB 14 IMPLICITLY REBUKES
THE SECRETARY FOR INSUFFICIENTLY STERN CRITICISM OF
LOCKHEED. ALL PRESS THROUGHOUT THIS PERIOD PUBLISHES
VARIOUS EXPOSES ON LOCKHEED AND OTHER U.S. CORPORATION
ACTIVITIES ABROAD. THE PRESS CONTINUES ITS CAMPAIGN
AGAINST THE MUNICH RADIOS, AND PRAVDA'S INTERNATIONAL
REVIEW FEB 15 NOTES, THOUGH WITHOUT CROWING, WINTER
OLYMPIC REFUSAL OF ACCREDITATION FOR RFE. BBC BROAD-
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CASTS TO PORTUGAL ARE ALSO CRITICIZED IN PRAVDA FEB 17.
FINALLY, THE CENTRAL PRESS ON FEB 17, IN SOLE FAVORABLE
COVERAGE ON U.S., REPORTS PRO-DETENTE COMMENTS BY AVERELL
HARRIMAN IN A SPEECH AT THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY PLATFORM
CONSULTATIONS.

3. PEACE PROGRAM. PRAVDA FEB 15 IN INTERNATIONAL REVIEW
STRESSES ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF THE SOVIET PEACE PROGRAM
AND SEPARATE ARTICLE IN SAME PAPER REPORTS ON EASTERN
EUROPEAN COMMENTARY ON THE PEACE PROGRAM. THRUST IS
THAT IT HAS BEEN SUBSTANTIALLY IMPLEMENTED, A LINE TAKEN
IN IZVESTIYA FEB 13 EDITORIAL ON EUROPEAN POLICY, BY
HUNGARIAN FOREIGN MINISTER PUJA, WHO IS QUOTED AS
SAYING THAT THE "BASIC PART" OF THE TASKS SET OUT BY
THE PEACE PROGRAM HAVE BEEN COMPLETED, AND BY A WARSAW

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS JOURNAL QUOTED IN PRAVDA, WHICH WRITES THAT "ALL MAIN PROVISIONS" OF THE PEACE PROGRAM HAVE BEEN COMPLETED. COMMENT. THE PRESS IS OBVIOUSLY CLEARING THE WAY FOR THE UPCOMING PARTY CONGRESS. END COMMENT.

4. ANGOLA/PORTUGAL. ANGOLA COVERAGE CONTINUES STEADY AND TRIUMPHANT IN ALL PAPERS, WITH STRESS ON MERCENARIES, AND ONLY TWO SQUIGGLES OF NOTE: (1) A TASS PIECE FROM BELGRADE IN PRAVDA FEB 16 RECOUNTS NETO'S TANJUG INTERVIEW IN WAY THAT MAKES IT SOUND THAT HE WAS OFFERING GOOD-NEIGHBORLY RELATIONS TO HIS NEIGHBORS ON CONDITION THEY CEASE TO SUPPORT FNLA AND UNITA, AND (2) TASS POLITICAL OBSERVER V. GONCHAROV IN KRASNAYA ZVEZDA FEB 15 REBUTS SLANDERS ON SOVIET INTERFERENCE IN ANGOLA CIRCULATING IN PORTUGAL AS DESIGNED TO INFLUENCE PORTUGUESE RECOGNITION DECISION, AND SPECIFICALLY TAKES ON MARIO SOARES.

5. CSCE IMPLEMENTATION. SOVIET SENSITIVITY TO WESTERN CRITICISM OF "SOVIET DEMOCRACY" IS REFLECTED IN STEADY DRUMBEAT OF PROPAGANDA ON "TRUE FREEDOM" IN THE SOVIET UNION UNDER "REAL SOCIALISM." GENERAL PATTERN IS THAT OF KIRILENKO SPEECH IN NANTERRE. IZVESTIYA EDITORIAL FEB 16 IS HEAVY WITH STANDARD LINE THAT SOVIET CITIZENS PARTICIPATE MASSIVELY IN GOVERNING THE COUNTRY (THROUGH LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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DISCUSSIONS OF PLAN), AND THAT THIS PARTICIPATION IS GROWING. SOVIETSKAYA ROSSIYA FEB 17 IN SIGNED

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AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

USMISSION GENEVA

USDEL SALT TWO GENEVA

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMCONSUL MUNICH

USMISSION NATO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

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USMISSION USUN

USDEL MBFR VIENNA

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

CINCPAC

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DIA WASHDC

CINCUSAFE RAMSTEIN AFB

CINCUSAREUR HEIDELBERG

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COMMENTARY DETAILS INTERNATIONAL SCHOLARLY AND SCHOLASTIC EXCHANGES IN WHICH THE USSR PARTICIPATES. PRAVDA FEB 14 IN SEPARATE ITEMS STRESSES TRADE DEVELOPMENT WITH ENGLAND AND ITALY AS EXAMPLE OF CSCE IMPLEMENTATION. IZVESTIYA ON FEB 12 SAYS THAT REFUSAL OF UK VISAS TO SOVIET PARTICIPANTS IN PEACE MEETING IN THE UK SHOWS THAT HMG IS NOT FULFILLING HELSINKI. AND PRAVDA'S INTERNATIONAL REVIEW FEB 15 SAYS THAT NOT ALL STATES ARE OBSERVING CSCE, POINTING TO CIA AND LOCKHEED AS EXAMPLES OF VIOLATIONS OF CSCE PRINCIPLES.

6. UK. SOVIET MEDIA HIT MRS. THATCHER HARD AFTER HER SPEECH ON THE SOVIET THREAT, BUT HAVE NOW TURNED A SMILING FACE ON SOVIET-UK RELATIONS, WITH UPBEAT DECLARATION BY PETER SHORE ON TRADE CARRIED IN ALL PAPERS FEB 14 AND, IN PRAVDA FEB 17, VERY UPBEAT FRONT-PAGE TASS ITEM FROM LONDON WITH BRITISH CHAIRMAN OF JOINT EXECUTIVE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, WHO SAYS STABLE AND LONG-TERM TRADE TIES HAVE HELPED ALMOST DOUBLE UK EXPORTS TO USSR IN 1975, AND THAT NEGOTIATIONS TO CONCLUDE SERIES OF BIG CONTRACTS UNDERWAY. COMMENT. UK AMBASSADOR SMITH REPORTED IN QP MEETING FEB 10 THAT ON PRESENTING CREDENTIALS TO PODGORNYY PREVIOUS DAY HE HAD COMPLAINED THAT NO BIG CONTRACTS ARE COMING THROUGH, AND PODGORNYY HAD SAID NOT TO WORRY. END COMMENT.

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7. MIDDLE EAST. IN ADDITION TO GROMYKO'S LETTER TO WALDHEIM ON RECONVENING GENEVA CONFERENCE (SEPTTEL), FEB 17 PRAVDA FRONT-PAGES CAIRO TASS REPORT ALSO CARRIED OTHER PAPERS ON FAMY'S CHARACTERIZATION OF IT AS "POSITIVE STEP," AND BOTH PRAVDA AND IZVESTIYA FEB 17 AND FEB 16 TAKE UP CUDGELS FOR NASSER WITH A KHARTOUM TASS ITEM ON AL-AKHBAR EDITOR'S SLANDERS AGAINST HIM FOR RAKING OFF.

8. COMMUNIST AFFAIRS. IN ADDITION TO CEMA MESSAGE TO EC TRANSMITTED IN LUXEMBOURG (SEPTTEL), PRAVDA FEB 17 CARRIES BACK-TO-BACK REPORTS FROM BERLIN, ON HONECKER SPEECH IN WEISSWASSER SINGING THE PRAISES OF SOVIET-GDR BROTHERHOOD, AND FROM PRAGUE, ON HUSAK'S TOUGH SPEECH TO THE 9TH PRAGUE INDUSTRIAL DISTRICT ON DISSIDENTS AND HOW THEY SHOULD KNUCKLE UNDER TO SOCIALIST LEGALITY AND NATIONAL UNITY. COMMENT. HONECKER IS PROBABLY BEING USED AS THE SOVIET STALKING HORSE IN REPLYING TO PCF CRITICISM. HE REPEATS ERNST THAELMANN'S DICTUM THAT "YOUR RELATIONSHIP WITH THE

CPSU AND WITH THE USSR ANSWERS THE QUESTION WHO YOU ARE" AND CONCLUDES WITH STATEMENT, ACCORDING TO PRAVDA, THAT "EVERYONE WHO SPEAKS OUT AGAINST THE USSR, WHO INTENTIONALLY OR INVOLUNTARILY IS CAUGHT UP BY ANTI-SOVIET SLANDERS, DOES HARM BOTH TO HIMSELF AND TO HIS PEOPLE." EXTRACTS OF HUSAK SEEM EXTENSIVE, AND GIVE SOVIET READER A FAIRLY GOOD PICTURE OF CONTINUING DISSATISFACTION IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA. HOWEVER, PRAVDA CORRESPONDENT I. BIRYUKOV IN SAME ISSUE IS MORE REASSURING, WHEN HE STATES ON HIS OWN HOOK THAT "THE COMMUNIST PARTY OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA STEPS FORTH POLITICALLY CONSOLIDATED, WELL ARMED IN IDEOLOGICAL MATTERS." END COMMENT.

9. LAOS-VIETNAM. PRAVDA FEB 15 CARRIES A LAUDATORY COMMENTARY BY ITS HANOI CORRESPONDENT VALERIAN SKVORTSOV ON THE RECENT VISIT BY THE LAOTIAN PARTY AND GOVERNMENT DELEGATION TO HANOI. THE ARTICLE, CALLED "THE BONDS OF FIGHTING SOLIDARITY," REPORTS THE COMMUNIQUE'S MUTUAL PRAISE FOR THE TWO "PEOPLE'S" LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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VICTORIES OVER "IMPERIALISTS AND NEOCOLONIALIST INTERFERENCE IN THEIR INTERNAL AFFAIRS" AND THEIR THANKS FOR SOVIET AND OTHER AID. SKVORTSOV ALSO REPORTS THE TWO SIDES' CALL FOR BUILDING RELATIONS WITH ALL STATES OF SOUTHEAST ASIA BASED ON THE FIVE PRINCIPLES OF PEACEFUL COEXISTENCE.

10. ASEAN-INDIAN OCEAN. PRAVDA FEB 17 CARRIES A TASS ITEM FROM JAKARTA REPORTING "MERDEKA" AND INDONESIAN "OBSERVER" ARTICLE STRESSING ASEAN MEMBER STATES' OPPOSITION TO TURNING THE ASSOCIATION INTO A MILITARY ALLIANCE. THE IDEA OF A MILITARY LINK WAS ATTRIBUTED TO "CERTAIN CIRCLES" IN THE "WEST." A TASS ITEM FROM NEW DELHI IN PRAVDA FEB 17 REPLAYS A "STATESMAN" REPORT ON THE ARRIVAL IN THE INDIAN OCEAN OF FOUR SHIPS OF U.S. 7TH FLEET LEAD BY THE "OKLAHOMACITY." WHICH IT ALLEGES IS A "DEMONSTRATION OF THE AMERICAN MILITARY PRESENCE" AT THE TIME OF THE ASEAN SUMMIT IN BALI NEXT WEEK. IZVESTIYA FEB 14 ALSO REPORTED THE "OKLAHOMA CITY'S" PRESENCE IN SINGAPORE AND SAID THAT THE PENTAGON HAD LONG-RANGE STRATEGIC PLANS FOR THE INDIAN OCEAN. THE ARTICLE, BY YU. SHTYKANOV, QUOTED ADMIRAL HEYWARD ON PLANS FOR A "MODEST" FACILITY AT DIEGO GARCIA, CITED OPPOSITION TO IT BY U.S. AND UK POLITICAL FIGURES AND CONCLUDED THAT THE COUNTRIES OF THE AREA UNDERSTAND THAT U.S. MILITARY ACTIVITY IS A "SERIOUS THREAT" TO PEACE AND SECURITY IN THE REGION.

11. ALSO IN INDIAN OCEAN AREA,FEB 16 IZVESTIYA FRONT-
PAGES TASS CORRESPONDENT'S ACCOUNT OF INTERVIEW WITH
MAURITIUS PM RAMGOOLAM IN WHICH LATTER PRAISES SOVIET
AID TO ANGOLA.
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